

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01908 201402Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2238

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UNCLAS CAIRO 1908

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BEXP EG

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF CARGO FOR CAIRO FAIR IN ALEXANDRIA PORT

1. CONGEN ALEXANDRIA REPORTED THAT, IN COURSE OF ITS EFFORTS EXPEDITE UNLOADING OF CARGO DESTINED FOR US EXHIBIT AT CAIRO FAIR BEGINNING MARCH 10, ALEXANDRIA PORT DIRECTOR STATED NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR BERTHING SHIPS WITH GENERAL CARGO (I.E. IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL) COULD NOT BE ALTERED.

2. PORT DIRECTOR DECLARED HE WAS RESISTING HIGH LEVEL CAIRO REQUESTS FROM TRADE MINISTER MATBOULI AND OTHERS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SHIPS CARRYING FAIR CARGO FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRY EXHIBITS. THIS SITUATION WAS NOT ANALAGOUS TO PL-480 WHEAT SHIPMENTS WHERE EXCEPTION WAS MADE. HOWEVER, HE PROMISED THAT ALL FAIR CARGO PRESENTLY IN SHIPS IN HARBOR WOULD BE CLEARED BY END OF FEBRUARY.

3. PORT DIRECTOR ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF MOVING SHIP CARRYING US FAIR CARGO FROM HARBOR INTO PORT IF IT WERE DETERMINED THAT FAIR CARGO COULD BE REMOVED BY LIGHTER. CONGEN CABLING SHIP TO ASCERTAIN LOCATION OF FAIR CARGO.

4. EMBASSY AND CONGEN WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS EXPEDITE UNLOADING, PARTICULARLY ALONG LINES PARA 3, BUT WE ARE NOT TOO HOPEFUL THAT MUCH MORE CNA BE DONE.

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